

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

DHA-02 DPW-01 AID-05 OES-06 OIC-02 /127 R

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APPROVED BY L:GHALDRICH

OSD/ISA-COL.NAFTZINGER (SUB)

ACDA-MRS.MAZEAU (SUB)

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R 061732Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, UK

SUBJECT:CONSULTATIONS ON LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW WILL HOLD ITS FOURTH, AND PRESUMABLY FINAL, ANNUAL SESSION IN GENEVA FROM MARCH TO JUNE 1977. IN PAST YEARS US DELEGATE, DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER ALDRICH, HAS HOSTED INFORMAL COORDINATING MEETINGS OF US, UK, FRG, FRANCE AND CANADA. THESE SO-CALLED "INNER CORE" MEETINGS HAVE SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE OF COORDINATING POSITIONS AND INTERSESSIONAL WORK, AND WE BELIEVE ONE SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR DURING THE AUTUMN OR WINTER.

2. ALTHOUGH ALDRICH IS PREPARED TO HOST SUCH INFORMAL
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CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD LIKE TO INQUIRE

WHETHER UK MIGHT WISH TO HOST THEM THIS YEAR IN LONDON. HEADS OF DELEGATION HAVE NORMALLY ATTENDED, ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL AIDES. THIS YEAR HEAD OF CANADIAN DEL IS STATIONED IN BONN AS DCM, AND IT MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR MOST DELEGATES IF THE MEETING WERE IN EUROPE. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF THE DELEGATION HEADS EXPECTS TO ATTEND THE UNGA, WHICH MIGHT, OF COURSE, FACILITATE MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

3. IN ANY EVENT, REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER OF FCO JOHN FREELAND, OR MARTIN EATON OF HIS OFFICE, TO INQUIRE AS TO HMG'S PREFERENCES ON LOCATION AND TIMING OF INNER CORE MEETING. AS TO TIMING, WE ARE FLEXIBLE BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE HELD NO LATER THAN JANUARY.

4. WE ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, APPROACHING THE OTHER THREE GOVERNMENTS AT THIS STAGE, AS WE WISH FIRST TO OBTAIN UK'S VIEWS. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, INTERNATIONAL LAW, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE248461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHALDRICH:LR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760378-0154
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761076/aaaacnpu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS ON LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE
TAGS: PARM, UK, ICRC
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006